

KBYU-TV, Utah

Bobcat LCD displays add efficiency in control room upgrade

"We considered plasma screens, but when we saw a demonstration of the Clarity products, it was an instant sell. Clarity fit our needs perfectly."

Jeff Rollman
Broadcast Maintenance Engineer
KBYU-TV

Since 1965, the Brigham Young University campus in Provo, Utah has been home to KBYU-TV, Channel 11 broadcasts. With nearly a million viewers of its educational, entertaining, and inspiring programs each week, KBYU television broadcasts from the BYU campus and serves Utah and parts of Idaho, Wyoming and Montana.

The station is part of BYU Broadcasting, which includes KBYU-TV, KBYU-FM (Classical 89) and BYU Television, a national service carried by Dish Network, DirecTV, various regional cable carriers, and worldwide via satellite services.

The master control facility is located within a 5,000 square foot broadcast communications center. Additional facilities are spread across the community, extending the operations into three different zip codes connecting to the main broadcast facility.

Two fully equipped mobile production units, two television studios and a state-of-the-art editing, digital effects and electronic graphics center supports BYU Broadcasting. With five full-time staff and a supporting part-time staff of approximately 30 students, the full-time master control operation is typically a beehive of activity.

Clarity Bobcat displays show multiple channel feeds

As part of a two-year digital studio upgrade, KBYU selected three direct view 40-inch Clarity Bobcat displays based on Advanced Performance Liquid Crystal Display (AP/LCD™) technology to monitor the various feeds and play lists in the master control. The master control operators simultaneously monitor a total of 16 different feeds including FM, NTSC, DTV, DISH, DIRECT, and streaming media signals for BYU Broadcasting using two Miranda Kaleido-K2 multi-image processors. All on-air and record play lists for each channel are displayed on one Bobcat display. The station expects to add HDTV and SDI streams and is ramping up to run a total of five different broadcast channels in the future.



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Special features and cost outweigh competition

According to broadcast maintenance engineer Jeff Rollman, KBYU considered using plasma screens – but one of the drawbacks with plasma technology is that it lasts an average of only three years. Clarity's direct view LCD products fit their needs perfectly.

"When we saw the Clarity Bobcat, it was an instant sell. We were very impressed," said Rollman. "In fact, we don't even need extra lighting in master control because the displays put out so much light. The direct view LCD has the screen size, minimal depth and lower cost of ownership over time that we require."



Previously the broadcast center used numerous CRT television monitors. "Although we had a ton of television monitors, there were a lot of signals not being monitored and if we had to check on one, we had to manually hook it up," said Rollman. "We went from hardly monitoring with CRTs to monitoring all the time on the Bobcat."

Bobcat displays installed easily to deliver immediate results

Located across the top of the master control console, the Clarity displays are tilted at an angle to provide operators and engineers with an overall snapshot of the network. This enables them to view all content for incoming and outgoing feeds and signals including HD, SD, analog, multi-channel audio and streaming media. A third Clarity LCD display handles the automated play list. The Clarity Bobcat displays have been in operation since July 2003, installed in a custom-built frame designed to mount them to the top of the control console.

The solution

The KBYU master control room features:

- *Three 40" Clarity Bobcat direct view displays incorporating Advanced Performance Liquid Crystal Display (AP/LCD™) technology*
- *Two Miranda Kaleido-K2 multi-image processors*

Project team:

- *RIA Corporation*
- *Clarity Visual Systems*

"The Clarity displays look fantastic compared to what we had before and gives us a quick way to monitor all of our signals at once," Rollman said. "The system came with no problems whatsoever," Rollman added. "It only took about an hour to mount and configure."



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Clarity Visual Systems, Incorporated
27350 SW 95th Avenue, Suite 3038
Wilsonville, Oregon, 97070, USA
Phone: 503-570-0700
Fax: 503-682-9441
www.clarityvisual.com

